

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached ten (10) sheets of drawings include new FIGS. 7, 8a, 8b, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 13a, 13b, 13c, 14a, 14b and 14c. The new drawing sheets show features previously recited in claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

ATTACHMENT: Ten (10) new sheets of Drawings.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-10, 12 and 14-15. Claim 11 which the Examiner indicates contains allowable subject matter, has been rewritten substantially with new claim 15. Accordingly, claim 11 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been canceled in favor of new claim 14 to improve its form. Accordingly, claims 2-4, which previously depended on claim 1, have been amended to depend on new claim 14. These claims, and claims 5-10 and 12, have also been amended to improve their form. Claim 14 has also been amended to recite the feature of claim 5 of a vehicle test rig in which the motor vehicle is suspended. Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended in view of this recitation. In addition, claim 13 has been canceled, and the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended. New drawing sheets 7, 8a, 8b, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 13a, 13b, 13c, 14a, 14b and 14c have been added showing features recited in claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, and the Specification has been amended in view of the new drawings. Support may be found, *inter alia*, in the original claims and drawings. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Abstract has been objected to as containing more than one paragraph and as using legal phraseologies such as "means" and/or "said". In response, Applicants have amended the Abstract to delete such legal terminology and to make the Abstract one paragraph, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection on these basis of these informalities.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as failing to show the following features as recited in the claims:

- Claim 1 - The device for "tuning" motor vehicles and the "assembly units";
- Claim 2 - The "coupling means" and the "supply lines";
- Claim 4 - The "final assembly section";
- Claims 6-8 - The different embodiments all on the motor-driven elements act on the "tires" (claim 6), the "wheel rims" (claim 7), and "wheel hubs" (claim 8);
- Claim 9 - The "means...for automatically performing acceleration and braking operations";
- Claim 10 - The "means...for automatically performing additional function tests";
- Claim 11 - The "assembly hall" and the "means...for the overhead conveyance of the finished motor vehicles";
- Claim 12 - The "rework station", and
- Claim 13 - The modular components that perform the claimed action of "assembling".

In response, Applicants have added new FIGS. 7, 8a, 8b, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 13a, 13b, 13c, 14a, 14b and 14c as showing these features, and have amended the Specification accordingly. For example, FIG. 7 (and FIG. 4 already on file) show the device for "tuning" motor vehicles and the "assembly units". FIGS. 8a and 8b show the "coupling means" and the

"supply lines" recited in claim 2, as well as the "final assembly section" of claim 4, and the modular components that perform the claimed action of "assembling" is recited in claim 13. FIGS. 9, 10, 11a and 11b show the different embodiments referred to in claims 6-8. FIGS. 12a and 12b show the means for automatically performing acceleration and braking operations. A means for the overhead conveyance of the finished motor vehicles is also shown in FIGS. 13a, 13b and 13c, and the modular components that perform the claimed action of assembling are also shown in FIGS. 14a, 14b and 14c. FIG. 4 on file and new FIG. 7 also show the means for automatically performing additional function tests and the rework station recited in claims 10 and 12, respectively. Original Figs. 5a and 5b show the means for automatically performing the selected function tests, according to claim 10. This the equivalent to the rework station of claim 12. The rework station is a function test unit placed later in the final assembly unit in order to rework the cars which are not within the fixed limits, and therefore need to be reworked.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments to the Drawings overcome the objections of the Examiner and Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement

because claim 1 recited that the device may be assembled on a flat surface "without creating floor load". In response, Applicants have canceled claim 1 in favor of new claim 14, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have canceled claim 1 in favor of new claim 14, and have amended claims 2-10 and 12 to improve their form, and have canceled claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on that basis be withdrawn as well.

The Examiner indicated that claim 11 contains allowable subject matter; however, claims 1-10 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1059222 but for reasons set forth on pages 6-8 of the Office Action. Essentially, the Examiner's position was that the EP '222 reference discloses a device recited in rejected claims, except for features which were considered inherent or within the skill of the art.

In response, Applicants have canceled claim 11 which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter in favor of new independent claim 15, which, it is respectfully submitted, is now in a condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 13 in favor of new claim 14, and respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons:

As set forth in new claim 14, Applicants' invention provides a device for final assembling of the motor vehicles including a plurality of conveying mechanisms for assembling a motor vehicle in a final form of; a plurality of assembly units for the motor vehicle; and a vehicle test rig in which the motor vehicle is suspended. The conveying mechanisms and the assembly units include individual, transportable, modular, interconnectable components installable on a flat surface without using a pit. In this way, Applicants' invention provides a device for the assembly of motor vehicles which may installed anywhere in a flat hall without modifying the ceiling or floor, and is transportable.

The primary reference EP '222 fails to disclose or suggest a device for the **final** assembly of motor vehicles. Final assembly occurs after the assembly line and is a well-defined step in motor vehicle construction. It includes merely the steps of vehicle testing and tuning, which are not concerned with in

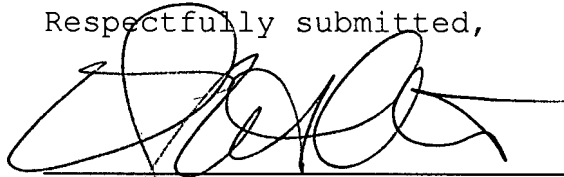
EP'222 at all. According to the prior art, the final assembly was not part of the assembling and processing described in EP '222, but "was rather the next production step at the end of the system shown in EP '222", and its cars were driven by workers from the end of the assembly line and to the vehicle test rig, where the final assembly test (motor, brake, tire test, steering wheel, regulation light test, etc.) where executed. After this test series, the cars were driven by workers out of the test rig in order to be shipped away from the plant.

In contrast, Applicants' invention uses an automatic, final, assembly line that incorporates these steps of vehicle testing and tuning as a part of the assembly and processing system. When Applicants' device is recited in claim 14, as amended, this final assembly system is provided which the motor car is continuously transported and tested while being suspended, thereby avoiding a change of the transport system (from a suspension system to another system) within the final assembly line. This feature is in no way disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 14 is patentable over the cited art, together with claims 2-10 and 12, which depend directly or indirectly thereon, as well as a new claim 15 which is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1 and 13 have been canceled, claims 2-10 and 12 have been amended, and new claims 14-15 have been added. The Specification has been amended, including the Abstract, and ten (10) new sheets of drawings have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,




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Enclosure(s): Appendix: Ten (10) sheets of Replacement Drawings
and Amended Abstract
Copy of Petition for Extension of Time

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 15, 2007.


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APPENDIX